

In the Claims:

Please cancel claims 1 to 21 without prejudice to their later pursuit in a continuing or divisional application. Also, please add the following new claims:

22. (New) A fluidic diagnostic test strip for measuring an analyte concentration or property of a biological fluid sample, said test strip comprising:

a channel section providing a flow path from a sample port to a measurement area with a stop junction,

said stop junction provided by an abrupt change in a cross section from said measurement area to another channel section in communication with a bladder, and

a bypass channel provided in communication with said port and said bladder, said bypass channel providing a flow path for equalizing pressure across a sample meniscus formed at said stop junction,

wherein said stop junction and said bypass channel are adapted so that flow of said sample stops at said stop junction while said channel section is under reduced pressure from said bladder.

23. (New) The device of claim 22, having only one bladder.

24. (New) The device of claim 22, having a plurality of bladders.

25. (New) The device of claim 22, having only one measurement area.

26. (New) The device of claim 22, having a plurality of measurement areas.

27. (New) The device of claim 22, having only one bypass channel.

28. (New) The device of claim 22, having a plurality of bladders and a plurality of bypass channels.

29. (New) The device of claim 22, having only one bladder, only one bypass channel and a plurality of measurement areas.

30. (New) The device of claim 22, comprising a plurality of layers, wherein said channel sections are provided in an intermediate layer between opposing layers.

31. (New) The device of claim 30, wherein said stop junction comprises two passages

substantially normal to a first surface of said intermediate layer, each passage having a first end in fluid communication with said channel sections and a second end in fluid communication with a recess in a second surface of said intermediate layer, said recess providing fluid communication between said passage second ends.

32. (New) The device of claim 22, wherein said stop junction comprises an opening in at least one of said opposing layers, any such opening covered by a sealing layer.

33. (New) The device of claim 22, adapted for measuring optical transmission in a measurement area.

34. (New) The device of claim 33, further comprising a reflective surface adjoining a measurement area.

35. (New) The device of claim 34, further comprising a composition that facilitates blood clotting, thereby providing a device for measuring prothrombin time.

36. (New) The device of claim 35, wherein the composition comprises thromboplastin.

37. (New) The device of claim 22, said further comprising a filter adjoining said port for filtering biological fluid introduced into said sample port.

38. (New) The device of claim 37, wherein said filter comprises an anisotropic membrane.

39. (New) The device of claim 38 in which said membrane is polysulfone.

40. (New) A fluidic diagnostic system, comprising a meter and a test strip selected from those described in claims 1-39.

41. (New) An analyte detection method comprising:

providing a test strip and a meter adapted to interface with and read results from said test strip,

applying a sample to a sample port in said test strip,
detecting the presence of said sample in said port and releasing said actuator to produce suction from said bladder,
drawing said sample into a test strip measurement area,
stopping said sample at a stop junction while said sample is under said suction,
drawing said sample through a bypass channel until pressure across said stop junction is equalized, and
taking at a measurement of analyte in said sample.

42. (New) The method of claim 41, wherein said test strip further comprises a filter adjacent said sample port.

43. (New) The method of claim 41, wherein said detecting comprises detecting a non-transparent portion of said test strip.

44. (New) The method of claim 41, wherein said test strip is substantially transparent at said at least one measurement area, thereby allowing measurement by analysis of transmitted light.

45. (New) The method of claim 41, wherein said sample is blood and said property measurement is prothrombin time.